SMAC CES Committee Meeting

7/9/2020

Attendees: Brittany Clausen, Liz Moen, Isaac Wengerd, Michele Reid, Lily Anderson, Abby Guilford, Bill Church, Stephanie Plaster, Katelyn Warburton, Linda Hall, Lisa Gustner, Matt Lewis, Mica, Natalie Engelmann, Doreen Farrell, Peter Goldstein, Sue Rosendahl, Suzanne Misel Meserow, Teri Lazaretti and Chu Xiong

OEO Feedback

Federal HUD emergency solution grant funding: 6 local governments that get their own ESG appropriation alongside of the balance of state funding. Funds can be used from 10/1/2020-9/30/2022 (24 months). Supplemental funding in addition to regular to ESG funds.

\*Dakota County is the only entitlement area- aren't able to apply for their own ESG funding

* Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) COVID Response Funds- Coronavirus (Stimulus) funding from the CARES Act- one time 2-year appropriation that is larger than usual ESG funding.
* Released in two “waves”-
  + 1st Wave- 0ver $7M- apply now for emergency shelter and street outreach providers
    - Google “DHS Grant Minnesota” to apply for funding
  + 2nd Wave- Over $15M
    - Intention in allocating the funds to providers is set to be published by mid-August
    - Could be used for street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, light-moderate rehab of shelter-facilities
      * We need to determine where the second wave will go. Think about the highest priority or unmet need in comparison to other activities going on in your community.
      * Feedback:
        + Is this is a county-specific need or broader for COCs?

A. We have to be specific about what we’re seeing within your agency. All feedback depending on what the need is would be helpful.

* + - * + Lack of shelter & street outreach in Anoka, Carver & Scott Counties. Longer term in prevention
        + Continue to prioritize shelter. More folks in shelter than we ever have. More Rapid Re-housing is recommended in Carver & Scott. Leveraging FHPAP has been more difficult- would like ESG RRH.
        + Lack of RRH for single adults. Lots of adults that don’t have disabilities to be eligible for PSH and need something more flexible.
        + Follow-up question: Struggle finding capacity in providers- are there community barriers in how many RRH we use in SMAC. Distinguishing between the need and how to carry it out.
        + Abby- timeframe of ESG funding- support for RRH in length of time- what happens when we stop paying- do we have solutions in keeping them housed after the money or time of funding runs out?
    - Q2. How do the activities you prioritized for ESG-CV2 funding fit into other local or community efforts for the homeless service system?
      * Carver County- shuffled resources to fill current needs around COVID-19. Borrowed staff from other dept’s in the county to provide services. Same level of shelter and services need to be increased. Need service components to fund people to provide services.
      * For RRH & shelter- housing stabilization is important. In SMAC- planning to use ESG funding to partially fund front end of preventing people from returning to homelessness by problem solving
      * Large supplemental amount needed to start up the funding
      * Intention of ESG funding first wave is to make awards to folks before the second wave is due.
      * The first RFP that’s out now will result in a 2-year contract. Plan out shelter and outreach by the amount of time in the contract.
      * The second RFP would possibly be broader outside of shelter and outreach.
    - Experience/suggestions for soliciting participant feedback on programmatic and funding decisions?
      * Director’s Council that’s made up of people with lived experiences that meet 2x/month

Assessor Training Update

* Re-did our assessor training by doing short quizzes to understand the most important parts of the assessment
  + Most people are passing on their first try but 9 people failed and needed to discuss that with Liz. The most people that are struggling are folks that aren’t doing regular assessments. County assessors find it difficult to keep up with Coordinated Entry.
  + Discussion:
    - Look at assessments that are completed from start to finish
    - Have local people that are aware and knowledgeable of Coordinated Entry and can promote it.
    - How many assessments are too few? Doing at least one per month.
    - Suggestion: Buddy system for those that do less assessments than normal. Assessors handing it in to an official assessor to plug it in to Coordinated Entry. Increased awareness of assessments is good and connect them to someone to put them into the system are good.
      * Four HMIS licenses in Anoka County- county dependence can vary in frequency
      * Table this conversation next month so that Liz can look at data. Potentially form guidelines to look at assessments

Advisory Update

* Scott County property having a lot of lease terminations- guidance on CE committee on prevention
  + When does the committee want to get involved when we identify a property or provider having multiple terminations of clients?
    - Feedback: personality of the property manager
    - Talk to the builder about property manager about what they said would do--
    - We may need to have a conversation with the builder from a county perspective
      * It’s not just about the approval process, it’s also about how do we hold them accountable after the fact?
        + We have to have a group of people to hold them accountable
        + MN Housing scores this- a letter of county confirmation

Tax credit projects- are they in compliance with that credit? If not, they will have a significance issue with compliance.

Peter and Jen can have a conversation with Matt to see what will help.

* + - Should we develop a threshold or a timeline to bring it back to the committee?
      * Disclaimer: We only knew about this by trying to help the provider to submit a variance request.
        + If there is a concern, we need to be bringing it to this committee
        + Who should be having these conversations? A couple of people from the advisory committee or the governing board?
        + Per tax credit properties, county level providers should be talking with them. It could be a lack of education around the folks getting evicted.
        + Consensus: 3 terminations in 6 months to bring it back to the committee

Update on ending Veteran homelessness

* Last summer, we thought we would have accomplished this goal. Lots of work with Steve to help get this done with Coordinated Entry and cross it with the Vet Registry. Abby has a meeting to work on the narrative and numbers to submit evidence to be at Functional Zero. USICH wants us to submit our data before we submit our evidence. We are housing more vets on any given months than they sit on a list.

CES Committee Feedback

* This committee has been around 5 years and has evolved over time. What value do you find in the CES committee? What changes should we add?
  + Updates and major CES plan changes from the meeting. It’s helpful to ICA to get this information and be able to start planning for changes.
  + Brainstorming on issues related to CES, creation of policies and procedures,
  + Updates important changes happening in CES. Shift meeting to the first Thursday of every month,
  + Likes being part of the decisions for CE.
  + Updates on housing, CE, and how SMAC as a whole is working to improve. However sometimes I do feel lost at times where as I feel as things are over my head.
  + I have a couple reasons. I'm the SMAC chair and CES is a hugely important part of what the CoC does. Staying informed about what CES is up to, and who the players are. And, when needed, I want to have a place to have my voice be heard
  + Policy changes are helpful
  + I am new to this group. I will have a team expanding into Anoka and Washington counties so I joined to learn about how the Coordinated entry System functions in SMAC and to get to know some of the people and providers involved in the system
  + This meeting informs a number of other regular meetings I'm involved in. That improves my efficiency of time management. It also keeps me connected to other SMAC participants. I'm fine with virtual meetings for the forseeable future.
  + ++ updates, changes, needs, collaboration, inclusion in decision, improvements,
  + I like hearing the successes and struggles across the CoC and sharing resources in order to assist with those. With such a large geographic area, it can be difficult to stay up to date with all the changes and this meeting really helps with that. I also enjoy getting to see all your (virtual) faces!
  + There are quite a bit of meetings, it is difficult to juggle them all and get the normal "'work" done.
  + I like the idea of the quarterly CE Assessor updates/workshop/training.
  + suggestion: informational meeting for housing providers on what CES is doing, Why?, numbers etc.
  + what if we asked the assessors directly what they wanted in a survey or something
  + Would like to see Recorded workshops
  + There is so much going on, it's difficult not to have so many updates
  + SMAC Newsletter is a great way to include, maybe really calling out CES as a major sub newsletter...
  + Tweak to make workshops to be more accessible
  + Quarterly meeting to decide being a full-time user as an assessor
    - Quick notices to assessors in SMAC newsletter for monthly updates
  + 1-hour meeting to bring 15-minute updates on CES data/information, agenda and policy updates
  + What types of information would be helpful to have online? CoC 1010, assessor training, homeless definitions
  + Dynamic prioritization potentially and then we could work the "priority pool" into that discussion
  + Survey on broader input from assessors and housing providers

CES Committee Schedule

* Move meeting to the first Thursday of the month at the same time starting in August

Acknowledgement

* Steph Plaster will be stepping down to allow herself to give more to her team
* Will be looking for a new co-chair. If interested in learning more, reach out to board
* Following SPARC recommendations to diversify board. Talk with governing board to recommend how we will move forward with adding the position.
* Commitment- 30-minute phone call prior to committee meeting and following up on actions. Not a huge time commitment.

Review actions/next meeting

* Prioritization discussions moved from August to ~September. Will impact our SPARC discussions by pushing that out a little bit
* TJ run data for assessors and send to Abby
* Housing Stabilization training on July 29- provider staff @ 10 am and county staff @ 2 pm.
* Survey regarding this meeting